



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Walla Walla Veterans Home

92 Wainwright Drive | Walla Walla, Washington 99362 | 509-394-6800 | 509-527-4199 (fax)

January 19, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Residents, Families and Resident Representatives:

As we continue to provide updates on our COVID-19 testing and results, we are writing to let you know that one contract staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19. We are working with the Walla Walla County Department of Health and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure the safeguarding of our residents and staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING & RESIDENT TESTING: Additional environmental cleaning and enhanced surveillance continues to take place, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks for residents in the affected areas. As mentioned in previous notification letters, all residents in affected areas are tested and retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new positive. To date we have not had any positive cases in our resident population.

EMPLOYEE SCREENING: All WWVH staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present and any potential exposures, and a temperature check. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

EMPLOYEE TESTING: In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Walla Walla Veterans Home is also conducting regular testing of all facility staff. Currently the rate of positivity in Walla Walla County requires that staff be tested twice each week. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, which is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

VACCINE CLINIC: Our second COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents and staff is scheduled for 1/21/2021.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE: We know and deeply understand that the past 9-10 months have been difficult beyond words for many of you who haven't been able to visit your loved one(s) at WWVH. This has been as difficult, or even more so, for residents here and in all healthcare facilities. I want to assure you that progress is being made and the future is looking brighter every day. In the words of Rosa Parks, "I do the very best I can to look upon life with optimism and hope and looking forward to a better day."

We can hardly wait to have you all back here again reuniting and spending quality time with your loved ones. It will be a wonderful celebration!

Sincerely,

Lonna Leno
Walla Walla Veterans Home

Serving Those Who Served